

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. ER509329720US, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 6-22-04 Signature: Elena Maglito  
(Elena M. Maglito)

Docket No.: HO-P02368US0  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Dean Hughes et al.

Application No.: 10/073,705

Art Unit: 3732

Filed: February 11, 2002

Examiner: A. Ramana

For: POSTERIOR STABILIZED KNEE SYSTEM  
PROSTHETIC DEVICES EMPLOYING  
DIFFUSION HARDENED SURFACES

**RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED 12-24-2003**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated December 24, 2003, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.

RECEIVED  
JUN 28 2004  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700